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Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Files

FROM : Chief, Budget Division

DATE: 3 January 1952

SUBJECT: Meeting with Mr. Barber relative to request for release of the contingency reserve for the additional requirements of the Office of Communications

1. At the request of Mr. Barber a meeting was held with [redacted] to secure additional information regarding the pending request with the Bureau of the Budget for release of the contingency reserve.

2. Mr. Barber was chiefly interested in the request for [redacted] The disadvantages of the present facilities were pointed out, as well as the importance of the new proposed location to the Agency disaster plan. Mr. Barber's chief concern was whether the new base station involved a commitment for direct overseas transmission by the Agency, feeling that such was not necessary due to the existence of the communications facilities of the 3 branches of the armed services. [redacted] did not feel that he was in a position to state the current policy of the Agency on this question and it was agreed as soon as time was available to arrange a meeting between [redacted] and Mr. Barber to discuss the question further. Mr. Barber agreed to take immediate action regarding the release of the contingency with the understanding that it did not represent a commitment on either his part or the Agency concerning the future intentions of the Agency relative to direct overseas transmission.

3. Mr. Barber also questioned at length the fact that the Agency had changed the specification of certain base station equipment to provide for slow speed generators which, while having a higher initial cost than the high speed type, have distinct advantages of lower operating costs, far longer life and greatly reduced maintenance, especially when required to give continuous output for a long period. It was Mr. Barber's belief that, in general, adequate power facilities were available at most of the base stations which are located [redacted] tions and, therefore, our chief need was for less costly stand-by equipment of the high speed type. It was pointed out that the Agency felt it necessary and desirable to procure the slow speed generators to assure adequate communications support, especially in the event of emergencies.

4. The proposed research and development projects were also discussed in detail and Mr. Barber appeared to understand their necessity, although he did question possible duplication in the case of small mobile units with work being undertaken by the armed forces. He was assured

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DOC	92	REV DATE	11/1/51	B
ORIG COMP	38	REV CLASS	C	
ORIG CLASS	5	PAGES	2	
JUST	22	NEXT REV	20/1	
		AUTH	NR 70-2	

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that every effort was being made ~~and continuing to be made~~ to avoid unnecessary duplication.

5. The proposed purchase of additional items of equipment was also discussed and Mr. [] made available to Mr. Barber the schedule showing the detailed procurement program which has been formulated through fiscal year 1953.

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6. Although Mr. Barber did not commit himself as to the exact nature of the action which the Budget Bureau would take, he assured us that immediate steps would be taken to release the contingency for this and the project with the Library of Congress. As indicated above, it was agreed as soon as Mr. Barber is over the present rush of final mark-up with the Defense budget, that a meeting would be arranged with [] to give a more complete understanding of the communications plans of the Agency and specifically the future policy relative to the operation of []

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